THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The number of candidates sponsored during the last 3-years under Science and General categories is as under:—

Year	TGT	PGT	Total
1983	3,526	729	4,255
1984	1,997	201	2,198
1985	3,965	178	4,143

A statement showing the number of candidates sponsored and the year of registration upto which they were sponsored is annexed. [*See* Appendix CXXXVI, Annexure No. 46.]

(d) There is no such proposal.

(e) Suitable candidates are sponsored in order of seniority in registration from amongst those possessing required qualifications and work experience, as laid down by the employer.

Alleged corruption in Carpet Weaving Training Scheme at Varanasi UP

2301. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: SHRI N. RAJANGAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received from Members of Parliament during 1984-85 regarding corruption in the Carpet Weaving Training Scheme at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Five.

(b) In one case a gazetted officer has been dismissed from service and five other non-gazetted officials have been awarded minor penalties. In another case disciplinary proceedings under C.C.S. (CCA) Rules have been initiated against two suspected non-gazetted officials.

Mal-functioning in the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handicrafts

2302. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: SHRI N. RAJANGAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a petition signed by about 24 Members of Parliament regarding mal-functioning in the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handicrafts was received;

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the various points raised therein; and

(c) if no action has been taken so far, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The points raised therein are under examination.

Excess Carpets at Aurari Central Storage Carpet Weaving Training Scheme

2303. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any excess carpets have been found at the Aurai Central Storage of the Carpet Weaving Training Scheme during the stock verification; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the report of stock verification to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

U. S. views on new round of Trade Liberalisation

2304. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a P.T.I. report from New York dated the 16th November, 1985 to the effect that the United States had named India and five other countries as 'Blocking' a new round of trade liberalisation talks and held the twin threat of striking them from the list of beneficiaries of the Generalised System of Preferences and also going abroad with talks outside the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT);

(b) if so, what are Government's reactions thereto and what steps Government propose to take in this connection; and

(c) whether Government have also got any information that the United States might convene a conference in Washington to begin a new round outside GATT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. But it is not true that some developing countries including India were blocking the new round of trade negotiations proposed by the developed countries. The developing countries have been insisting for certain preconditions such as standstill on (no new restrictions to be imposed) and roll-back (existing trade restrictions to be phased out) of protectionist measures before launching of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations. They were also not agreeable to the proposal of developed countries that the new round should include negotiations on trade in services which falls outside the mandate of GATT.

(b) and (c) A decision has been taken at the forty-first session of the GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES held at Geneva from 25 to 29 November, 1985 to set up a Prepartory Commitee to determine the objectives, subject matter, modalities for and participation in the multilateral trade negotiations. Both India and USA will be participating in the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee at Geneva along with other GATT member countries.

In the light of the above developments, there has not yet been any further move by the United States to convene a Conference in Washington a begin a new round outside GATT.

Transfer of ITDC properties to State Governments

2305. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITDC is transferring its travellers lodges/forest lodges/restaurants to various State Governments; if so, what are the details of each property with its market/book value, area of land/building and location;

(b) what are the main reasons for transferring these properties to the State Governments; and

(c) what is the capital expenditure incurred on each of the above properties during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) For exercising better control, management, supervision to integrate with State's own tourism infrastructure ITDC is contemplating to transfer some of its Travellers Lodges/Forest/Lodges/restaurants to the States/Union Territories subject to mutually agreed terms and conditions. A statement showing the details of properties transferred to various States is given in the enclosed Statement. *(See below)*.